

DEAD MILLIONAIRE'S MYSTERIOUS TRUST.

Lawyer Says He Will Divulge Later Why He Presented \$250,000 Check After Client's Death.

Facts which led the police to investigate the mysterious death of multi-millionaire William March Rice, were: He died after a very short illness. His checks for \$185,000 were presented at banks hours after his death.

Equivocal answers were made to one firm of bankers whose suspicions were aroused by a slight irregularity in a check for \$25,000.

Although he had expressly stipulated that he was to be cremated his body was practically mummified by embalming fluid.

His funeral services were begun before his only brother could arrive from the South, although his brother had requested by telegraph that they be delayed until he could arrive.

Prof. Rudolph A. Witthaus is making a chemical analysis of the viscera, which will determine whether there was foul play.

It will require the chemical analysis of Prof. Rudolph A. Witthaus to determine whether aged William March Rice, whose funeral services were so dramatically interrupted at 500 Madison avenue yesterday, died from foul play.

Prof. Witthaus has the brain, stomach and other internal organs of the dead millionaire in his laboratory now. He will announce the result of his labors in three weeks.

The fact that the body was embalmed immediately after death makes the problem of finding poison administered before death—of such was the case—very difficult. In the opinion of some experts it is practically impossible.

Embalming fluid is made of alcohol, arsenic and formaldehyde. Arsenic put into the body after death at once permeates every tissue and, being a powerful mineral poison, destroys every trace of any vegetable poison which may be in the system. The only hope of detecting the work of poison before death is that arsenic will eat holes in the stomach during life, but will not have this effect after death.

MYSTERY OF DEATH.

The police are seeking to get at the bottom of the presentation of checks of the dead millionaire amounting to \$185,000 at banks nearly a day after his death.

Lawyer Albert T. Patrick, Mr. Rice's legal adviser, who presented the checks, admits that when they were presented he knew of Mr. Rice's death, but he declares he thought it best to secure the money anyhow to carry out a trust of Mr. Rice.

Mr. Patrick, it was learned to-day, presented to the officials of the Safe Deposit Company of New York, whose vaults are at Broadway and Liberty street, with a paper purporting to be an assignment of the securities kept there by Mr. Rice. When Bowers & Sands, the old man's attorneys, learned of this they at once served notice on the company warning the officials not to permit anybody to take possession of the box.

He was seen to-day at his office, 275 Broadway, and talked frankly to an Evening World reporter on everything concerning Mr. Rice and his business relations except one point—the "certain plans" Mr. Rice had that were the ostensible cause of his giving the checks for \$250,000.

"I shall not betray Mr. Rice's confidence in this matter," Patrick said, "until I have consulted with all of his relatives—those whose interests are benefited and those whose interests are conflicted by his death."

CREMATED TO-MORROW.

"Mr. Rice's body will be cremated to-morrow at noon, when all of his relatives and friends will be present. I shall then present his will, read it, and tell all of them just what plans he had in mind."

"I shall leave it to them whether it shall be made public or not."

"The checks were given to me on Saturday by Jones, but it was too late to have them negotiated."

"If I told this 'plan' not only would his end be defeated by publicity but I would betray the confidence of Mr. Rice."

HIS WISH.

"He did write me a letter telling me what he wanted done when he died and asking me to attend to it. He did not want to be embalmed. I am sorry now it was done, but the undertaker said it must be and would not interfere with the cremation. If the body had not been embalmed even then some one might have said that was wrong. The undertaker said the body would not keep and he would not take it if not permitted to embalm it. I knew Mr. Rice's wishes. I consulted with several of his friends and they concluded it would be best to embalm the body."

DETECTIVES ACTIVE.

Chief of Detectives McClusky, who has just returned from his vacation, said this morning: "It is not true, as stated in some morning papers, the police have done with the Rice case. Far from it, we are working hard on what is as deep a mystery as we have had to handle in some time. The result of the autopsy is rather a setback to the murder theory, but we are not working along that line."

"There is a great deal to be cleared up before the police can let this matter rest. The presentation of checks after Mr. Rice's death, the withholding of news of his death from the bankers, the hurried orders for cremation and the embalming of the body against



ALBERT T. PATRICK.

the express wish of Mr. Rice, constitute gravely suspicious circumstances."

LIED ABOUT DEATH.

Charles F. Jones, private secretary, valet and nurse to Mr. Rice, first told the bankers his master was sleeping, but afterward admitted he was dead.

William March Rice was eighty-four years old and worth about a million, made principally in Texas. He was very eccentric and in his apartments at the Berkshire, 500 Madison avenue, lived simply with his valet, Jones, and a negro servant, who had been with him for many years.

He did his own cooking, preferring dishes, his friends say, which would ordinarily make an octogenarian ill. He had the health of a man of sixty-five.

He died at 3 o'clock Sunday night. Dr. D. Walker Curry, of 33 East Sixty-first street, gave as a death certificate that death was due to diarrhoea and senility. Emerson & Plowright, of 303 Fourth avenue, were the undertakers.

They were told the body would be cremated at Fresh Pond, but were also directed to embalm it.

They gave it a thorough embalming of the fluid and placed the body in a heavy casket.

\$90,000 IN BANK.

Mr. Rice had a deposit of \$90,000 with the private banking firm of S. A. Swenson & Sons, 15 Wall street. He had long been a depositor with them to large amounts. Albert T. Patrick, a lawyer, of 25 Broadway, was his legal adviser and transacted much business with the bankers for his client.

Mr. Patrick appeared at the bank early Monday morning with a check for \$25,000. He was recognized as Mr. Rice's agent, but the amount of the check made the bankers careful.

In their investigation they found the check had been drawn to Mr. Patrick's order and signed by Mr. Rice, but Mr. Patrick's first name had been spelled "Albert" instead of "Albert."

This was in the handwriting of Jones. The signature could not be questioned by them, but they thought it best to speak to Mr. Rice about the matter.

VOUCHED FOR CHECK.

"The check's all right," he answered, according to the police. "Go ahead and cash it."

"If Mr. Rice will make that statement over the wire the check will be cashed, and not before," was the answer of the banker.

"He is asleep now," was the hesitating return. "I don't like to awaken him."

When the bank official insisted there was a delay of a few minutes and then Jones said over the wire that Mr. Rice was dead and had been since Sunday night.

As death revokes a check according to law, the bankers refused to have anything to do with it and informed their attorneys, James W. Gerard, of the law firm of Bowers & Sands, attorneys for the bank, soon laid the case before District Attorney Gardner, who informed Coroner Hart that it was a proper case for investigation.

Dr. Curry said to-day: "I had been Mr. Rice's physician for several months. I was in the habit of calling on him very frequently, sometimes twice a day. Although he was eighty-four years old, he was of perfectly sound mind, and all his organs were sound and normal, but his general condition was such that he required the constant attention of a physician. I could see nothing suspicious about his death, and I certified to the Board of Health that Mr. Rice had died from old age, a previous attack of diarrhoea and indigestion and from mental strain."

DIED AS CHILD DID.

Father Killed on Railroad Track Where His Daughter Was Mangled.

On almost the same spot that his little daughter was killed by a New Jersey Central Railroad train three years ago, John Johnson, a Westfield, N. J., huckster, met his death in the same tragic manner at 6 o'clock this morning.

The fatality occurred in the cut just west of the Westfield depot. An east-bound passenger train, which he did not hear approaching on account of deafness, struck and instantly killed him.

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EXPOSURE COMING IN INSURANCE FRAUDS.

(Continued from First Page.)

has a bad bargain, and instead of taking his medicine like a man he wants to throw the onus on the directors for selling the stock which he had carefully examined and paid for.

"He claims that there was fraudulent misrepresentation on the part of the directors and thought that he would make them repay the money."

SAW THE DANGER.

"I appreciated the danger involved. With a full sense of this, I personally went to William A. Halsey, the President."

"See here, Halsey," I said, "don't let me make any mistake about this. Look into this matter very carefully and let us be sure we are right."

"I have called our officials into my office," said Halsey to me, "and explained to them that I wanted a correct and explicit report made of the exact financial standing of our company. The managers and the cashier have all assured me beyond any peradventure that the statement is absolutely correct."

"That is why the President signed it and that is why it was agreed to."

LOST \$5,000.

"I have not made a cent out of the transactions. When I purchased the stock I paid for it \$125 a share and my forty shares cost me \$5,000. In addition I was compelled to pay a \$1,000 assessment."

"Mr. Garrett gave me \$1,000 for this investment. Now he has thrown back all this stock, saying he does not want it, and demands his money back. I will let the law decide whether or not he is entitled to get it back."

A SMOOTH TALKER.

"How was it that such men as the Goulds, John Jacob Astor, Chauncey M. Depew, Benjamin F. Tracy, Levi P. Morton and W. E. D. Stokes were drawn into the concern?" Mr. Page was asked.

"C. W. McMurray did it," replied Mr. Page.

"You know Mac," he continued, "is a pretty smooth talker. He asked us to go in the company and we did it to help him along. I guess he knew very little about the insurance business and had to leave the management to others."

DEPEW'S STATEMENT.

Senator Depew said to-day: "A man who claimed to be a newspaper man got me to go into it. He came to me and said that it would be a very great favor to him if I would subscribe \$1,000. It was then a Lloyd's concern."

"Later it was reorganized into a stock company, and the same man again came to me and asked me to increase my interest in the enterprise. He said that if I did so I would be going into an ever-lasting favor, for he hoped to secure a place with the company when it was formed."

"He followed me to Newport and elsewhere, told how flourishing and prosperous a business the company could do, and begged so hard that besides my \$1,000 Lloyd's subscription I paid \$9,000 more in cash, receiving \$9,000 of the company's stock."

GARRETT "SQUEALED."

J. Stanley Lockwood, who with R. R. Forman was the general manager of the company, is now with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company at 54 William street. Mr. Lockwood said:

"The Traders' Fire Insurance Company failed because of severe losses occasioned by a bad year in the business. There was no mismanagement of the company, and this whole row has been kicked up by the man Garrett, who bought the stock for 25 cents on the dollar and then squaled."

"Didn't the directors know that the company was insolvent when they sold out to Garrett?"

"I don't care to discuss that question," was the reply.

"Didn't you know that the statement which was presented to Mr. Garrett was false?"

"I am not going to talk about that now."

NO CRIMINAL ACT.

"Do you think that some of the officers will be liable to criminal prosecution?"

"I know of no criminal act that was committed. The company simply had a bad year."

"Do you know David Allison?"

"Yes, he was the cashier."

"You read the story of his wife that he had died from the worry over his attempts to shield some one in the Traders' office?"

"Oh, I guess if you go up to the hospital you will find what he died of," snapped Mr. Lockwood. "Why, he's been dying for two years. I knew of nothing to cause him to worry."

William A. Halsey, the President, lives in Newark, where he is a member of the leather firm of S. Halsey & Sons.

GARRETT'S STATEMENT.

When Mr. Garrett was asked to-day if in his opinion the members of the Board of Directors knew of the insolvency of the concern previous to the appointment of the receiver, he replied: "Why, certainly they knew of it. I took charge of the company on June 2 last and on June 7 the members of the Board of Directors with whom I was doing business knew that there was not sufficient money in the concern to pay the debts. The receiver was not appointed until June 18. This appears to me to be evidence sufficient that they knew of the conditions."

DIED HEART-BROKEN.

David Allison, who was cashier of the company, died Saturday in Roosevelt hospital. His wife and close friends say his heart was broken. Before his death he told his wife of the frauds in the company's statements, but asserted that he profited in no way from the transactions and acquiesced in the acts for the sake of others.

When Allison was confronted with the proofs of the company's false statements which he had drawn up he was a strong, healthy man. From that moment he was a changed man.

He worried constantly and became a shadow of his former self. Bright's disease, induced by worry, set in and was the ultimate cause of death.

MR. GOULD'S STORY.

When an Evening World reporter called at the office of Howard Gould this morning and presented him with a copy of The Evening World containing the account of the alleged swindle, Mr. Gould read the article carefully and made the following reply:

"I resigned from the Board of Directors last April before going to Europe, and know nothing about the matter. Edwin Gould was not at his office and was not expected downtown to-day. George Gould declared he was too busy to discuss the matter, but it was said in his office that he knew nothing about the trouble."

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plain colors and polka dots,
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of English Reversible Cloth, 14 to 18 yrs., Value \$6.75

Girls' School Skirts \$2.65
of chevrons, serges and
double-faced cloth, 10 to 14 yrs., \$3.95

Misses' Mackintoshes \$2.45
of navy blue serge, 6 to 18 yrs., Value \$4.50

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White Enamel Bedsteads \$4.50 to \$18.50
with brass trimmings,

Brass Crib \$24 to \$50

Brass Bedsteads in new designs \$20 to \$200

Twin Brass Bedsteads \$60 to \$150

Oriental Rugs

Carabags & Shirvans, Value 9.50 to 12.00 \$7.50, 9.00

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WANTED—A rough laborer; also a stranger; steady employment & good wages. For particulars, address the Brooklyn Place & Organ Co., Washington, N. J.

WANTED—A good union painter, 12.50 per day; 7.30 A. M. Thursday, 211 West 22d st.

Lost, Found and Rewards.

LOST—Rings, 26 A. M., near 17th st. and 5th ave. A purse containing bills, a little girl was seen to pick it up; reward offered. Return to 207 W. 17th st.

In olden times the town crier made known the people's wants to the villagers. To-day the Sunday World want sheet voices the people's wants to all the earth.

KINETOSCOPE STORY OF A VIOLATION OF THE SOFT-COAL SMOKE LAW.

Photographs of Edison Company Chimney Taken Yesterday from Roof of Pulitzer Building.



11 A. M.



2 P. M.



4 P. M.



4 P. M.

The Evening World to-day presents a kinetoscope view of how one of the biggest commercial concerns in the country is infracting the city laws most flagrantly by using soft coal.

This is the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, of Duane street.

For several days past the Edison Company has been using soft coal in the

other concerns, not so big as the Edison Company, fortunately, to emulate it. No doubt a few dollars are saved by substituting bituminous for anthracite coal, but the health and cleanliness of the city suffers in even greater proportion.

President Murphy to-day declared that he would no longer brook the defiance

of these soft-coal users and would at once take steps to compel them to cease it.

"I am awaiting reports of my inspectors," President Murphy said this morning to an Evening World reporter, "in the order I sent out yesterday. This is the order I sent to the superintendent of that department:

"Sir: You will detail every inspector in this department, together with the disinfecters connected with the Contagious Disease Bureau, always excepting the milk and contagious disease inspectors, and send them throughout the city to investigate the rumors in to-day's newspapers that manufacturers have recommended using some kind of fuel

which creates a smoke detrimental to the health of this community."

"Take every man available for this purpose, including the sanitary police squad," M. C. MURPHY, President.

"When these reports are handed in I shall act at once."

"I shall see that the law regarding the use of soft coal in the city limits is enforced strictly."

"The health of the city is of more importance than the pockets of coal barons and greedy corporations. I am satisfied that there is plenty of hard coal hidden away and they are able to produce it, if they have to."

Little wants sometimes have large filling when ad artised in the great Sunday World.